

CLAIMS

5 We Claim:

1. A water soluble tablet coating is provided comprising:
 - (a) at least one film-forming polymer having acidic functional groups and a degree of neutralization ranging from 30 to 100 weight percent, based on the weight of polymer; and
 - (b) at least one film modifying agent.
2. Water soluble tablet coating according to claim 1 wherein the film forming polymer is prepared from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, and hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, alkyl (meth)acrylates, hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylates and styrene.
3. Water soluble tablet coating according to claim 1 wherein the Tg of the film forming polymers ranges from 35 to 120 °C.
- 20 4. Water soluble tablet coating according to claim 1 wherein the film modifying agent selected from the group consisting of a plasticizer, a coalescent, a dispersant and combinations thereof.
5. Water soluble tablet coating according to claim 1 wherein the film modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of: triethyl citrate, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, esters of polyalkylene glycols, polyalkylene glycol adducts of hydrophobes, fatty alcohols, fatty alcohol derivatives, alkyl phenols, trimethylol propane, neopentyl glycol, hexane diol, alkyl lactates, ethyl lactate, alkyl citrates, alkyl gluconates Peramin SRA and combinations thereof.
- 30 6. A process for preparing a water soluble tablet coating which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) applying a film forming polymer in liquid form to a tablet surface; and
 - (b) drying the film to form a protective film coating around the tablet, wherein the film forming polymer formulation comprises at least one water soluble, film-forming

polymer having acidic functional groups and a degree of neutralization ranging from 30 to 100 weight percent, based on the weight of polymer and at least one film modifying agent.

- 5 7. Process according to claim 6 wherein the film forming polymer is prepared from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, and hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylic acid, maleic acid, alkyl (meth)acrylates, hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylates and styrene.
 - 10 8. Process according to claim 6 wherein an excess of neutralizing base is required for water soluble polymers used to coat effervescent tablets.
 9. Process according to claim 6 wherein the film modifying agent selected from the group consisting of a plasticizer, a coalescent, a dispersant and combinations thereof.
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10. Process according to claim 6 wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of: triethyl citrate, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, esters of polyalkylene glycols, polyalkylene glycol adducts of hydrophobes, fatty alcohols, fatty alcohol derivatives, alkyl phenols, trimethylol propane, neopentyl glycol, hexane diol, alkyl lactates, ethyl lactate, alkyl citrates, alkyl gluconates Peramin SRA and combinations thereof.
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